

# **SMARTY PANTS**

**SERIES BIBLE – THIRD DRAFT**

written By David Shayne  
July 27, 2018

**“I fix things.”**  
– Lunella Lafayette  
**Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur #3**



# A BODY IN MOTION TENDS TO STAY IN MOTION...

Meet **Lunella Lafayette**.

She's easy to spot — she's that blur who just whizzed past at 80 miles an hour!

This is the first field test of Lunella's ROCKET WHEELS! Assembled from a pair of old roller skates, a modified soda machine CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge and some ionized kitchen magnets, these bad boys are gyroscopically-balanced, go 0-60 in 3.4 seconds and run on emissions-free hydrogen. They're going to revolutionize personal transportation.

Lunella bends her knees... leans into the corner... zips down an alleyway and...

## **WHAM!!!! CRASH!!!!**

Brakes. She forgot the brakes. Good thing those trash bags are soft.

Don't bother helping her up. She's determined to do it herself — she does EVERYTHING herself — and besides, she'll be zooming off again before you can even get to her.

But hey, you just got the full Lunella Lafayette Experience:

Brilliant.

Determined.

Nine years-old.

# MEET LUNELLA LAFAYETTE

Lunella's passion is science. This African-American girl's heroes are people like Albert Einstein, Vera Rubin, Tony Stark, Mae C. Jemison and Hank Pym. Her dream isn't just to follow in their footsteps to help humanity but to become the greatest scientist ever. And she just might, 'cause Lunella's smart. Like, really smart. In fact...

## LUNELLA LAFAYETTE IS THE SMARTEST PERSON IN THE WORLD!

Started talking at 3 months. Was doing differential calculus before she was out of diapers. In preschool, she built a working DVD player out of Legos and her class watched *Lion King* during Snack Time.

Lately she's been fixing neighbors' broken fridges and slow-running computers. She approaches these jobs with both a 9 year-old's energy and a 9 year-old's attention to detail. Which is to say her mind always works a mile a minute, and her plans often go awry. (Like the time she used an abandoned ice cream truck to "fix" her building's central A/C and ended up having to build a makeshift plasma cutter from her mother's pizza wheel to un-thaw Mrs. Gillespie from a solid block of ice before the nerve damage set in.)

Still, the residents of 128 Hester Street accept Lunella's, um, enthusiasm because (1) she gets the job done (eventually) and (2) she never charges her lower middle-class neighbors. Her parents say "You give back where you can, when you can," but Lunella just likes using her brain to help. As Lunella puts it: "I'm a scientist. **I fix things.**"

Lunella likes to tinker in a secret laboratory she built in the abandoned water tower on her apartment building's roof. If she could, she'd spend all her time here building her homemade inventions out of the odds and ends she's street-scavenged, but alas, like all 9 year-olds she has to go to school.

Problem is, Lunella finds fourth grade unchallenging. She often spaces out in class — calculating pi to the 9,000<sup>th</sup> digit or brainstorming ways to convince her parents to get her a dog (she hasn't solved that... yet). Between her giant IQ and her propensity to get lost in her head, Lunella doesn't quite fit in at PS 20. It's not that the other kids dislike her — they just don't get her.

They dismiss their spacey classmate as "**Moon Girl.**"

Hard to say if Lunella even notices, but her parents do. And they're kinda worried. While they are proud of Lunella's intellect and all that she can do, they want their brilliant baby girl to have a "normal" childhood with "normal" friends.

They have no idea how NOT NORMAL things are about to get.

# EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

Always scavenging for new materials to work with, Lunella is lucky that New York is home to so many super heroes, because every time the Hulk smashes a monster or Thor hammers a killer robot, a huge mess gets made. Although they always seal off the area, it's pretty easy for a kid to slip in unnoticed and grab a few things.

Her current obsession is a **small green orb** she picked up at an Avengers battle site...

LUNELLA'S LOG - DAY 1  
SUBJECT: UNKNOWN OBJECT

Found something unusual. After 7 hours of experimenting, I'm still not sure what it's for. Or what it's even made of. Appears to have luminescent capabilities but no power source.

I'm hungry. Gonna get a bagel, then get to work.

\*\*\*

LUNELLA'S LOG - DAY 3  
SUBJECT: UNKNOWN OBJECT

Spectrometer analysis indicates metals that don't seem to actually exist on Earth. Need more research.

\*\*\*

LUNELLA'S LOG - DAY 9  
SUBJECT: UNKNOWN OBJECT

Breakthrough! Had to search really WEIRD parts of the internet, but I've figured out that THIS DEVICE IS ALIEN! I HAVE ACTUAL ALIEN TECHNOLOGY! SO COOL! (Still no idea what it does.)

\*\*\*

LUNELLA'S LOG - DAY 14  
SUBJECT: \*\*ALIEN\*\* OBJECT

Two weeks in and I've MADE NO PROGRESS. You can do this, Lunella. Work the situation. Brainstorm.

\*\*\*

LUNELLA'S LOG - DAY 28  
SUBJECT: \*\*ALIEN OBJECT\*\*

So I brainstormed and came up with is a name: THE OMNI-WAVE PROJECTOR. But I still DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HONKING HULK THIS THING IS!!!

I won't get frustrated.  
I won't get frustrated.  
I won't get frustrated.

\*\*\*

LUNELLA'S LOG - DAY 29  
SUBJECT: OMNI-WAVE PROJECTOR

I AM SO FRUSTRATED!!!!

Thinking maybe I could juice the Omni-Wave Projector to life, I hooked up a 9-volt battery and all it did was give off a tiny little glow!

So now I have a high-end night lite. Big whoop.

Hey, wait a sec, if a small battery makes it give off a small glow...

With a glimmer in her eye and a pair of jumper cables in hand, Lunella hooks the Omni-Wave Projector directly into the NYC power grid.

As 10,000 volts start flowing through it, the orb begins to GLOW! Brighter... brighter... brighter and then...

...THE OMNI-WAVE PROJECTOR EXPLODES IN A MASSIVE BURST OF BLINDING LIGHT!

Well, give her this. The girl who wants nothing more than to become a scientific pioneer just became the first person in history to **RIP A HOLE IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM!** Not even Einstein did that.

But there's no time to celebrate, because when the spots clear from Lunella's eyes, she looks up to see...



# HERE COMES (3 TONS) OF TROUBLE

Lunella knows that logic dictates there's no way she can be staring at a crimson-colored T. Rex that just transported across time and space. Yet there he is: Twenty feet tall and 6000 lbs of blood-red scales and razor sharp teeth, with a roar that could drown out a Jay-Z concert.

So much for logic.

Lunella has never been more terrified... of her PARENTS. They won't let her keep a stray dog. If they find out about the giant carnivore on their roof, she'll be grounded forever! Lost in thought as she contemplates a life of permanent bedroom imprisonment, Lunella doesn't even notice the thing take off into the night!

So thanks to her, there's now a giant dinosaur rampaging through New York. Like a scientist, Lunella wants to fix this problem. But like a 9 year-old, she doesn't want to get in trouble. She could just ignore it. After all, she's the only one who knows how he got here. But that doesn't feel right. Like her parents say, "Mess it up, clean it up."

With absolutely no plan in mind, she follows the trail of giant claw marks to Houston Street, where she finds her new acquaintance devouring a cartful of dirty water hot dogs! Lunella is stunned. So stunned, she doesn't notice the city bus coming at her! Fortunately, it's knocked away just in time by a swipe of the dinosaur's tail!

But before Lunella can thank him for saving her life, a team from **The Department of Dinosaur Control**<sup>1</sup> suddenly swoops in like a bunch of heavily-armed dog catchers. ZAP! They knock out the dinosaur and load him onto a flatbed. Lunella can only watch as they haul him back to their HQ at the American Museum of Natural History.

She feels terrible — she's the reason he got captured! Well, the dinosaur just saved her. Now she's gotta save him!

But if she gets caught, Lunella will still be in deep trouble. Fortunately, her mind is always working. Taking inspiration from New York's costumed super heroes, she MacGyvers together a super-disguise. She loads up with an arsenal of homemade, low-tech gadgets. Now all she needs is a name for her alter-ego.

"Ms. Marvel"? Taken. "Gadget Girl"? Meh. Then she remembers the nickname the kids at school call her. Turns out rescuing a T. Rex isn't a job for Lunella Lafayette.

It's a job for...

---

<sup>1</sup> Fun fact: Ever since the Dept. of Dinosaur Control was established they've been waiting for a dinosaur to attack New York City and for decades *The Daily Bugle* has dismissed this little-known agency as "a waste of our tax dollars." Not surprisingly, the DoDC's team is pretty psyched one finally showed up!

# MOON GIRL



# THE RESCUE

LUNELLA'S LOG

SUBJECT: MY SUPER-AWESOME DARING RESCUE

OMG it was SO COOL! I skate up to the Museum of Natural History and 'cause it's night, it's all locked up. So I use a number-sequencing app I wrote when I was bored during PE last semester (Kickball is SO LAME) to cycle thru every possible alarm code. Bingo! I sneak down to this giant room on the lower level. Turns out it's called THE DEPARTMENT OF DINOSAUR CONTROL and it's like this kind of dinosaur prison, with a bunch of cages. Except the only dinosaur there was MINE! I was about to free him when these Dinosaur Cops or whatever walk in and were all, "Hey! What are you doing here?" And I was like, "RESCUING MY DINOSAUR!" And they were like, "That's illegal!" or something 'cause I was so hyped that I wasn't really paying attention and then they charged at me but I was SO READY!

First I blast them with Sonic Blaster I built for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade science fair (the one I got a D on because it blew out all the Auditorium windows).

Then I throw a Combo Stink/Flash Bomb to blind and gag them. (NOTE TO SELF: Need to make a gas mask. It's been a couple of hours and I still can't get the FART SMELL out of my nose.)

I tried to use my plasma blade to cut open the cage, but it, um, kind of blew up. Overclocked the engine. (Gotta re-calibrate.)

Fortunately I found the keys and freed him and we bolted and now we're back in the lab. He seems SUPER thankful, 'cause he keeps snuggling on me and, you know, he may be scary, but seeing him there in the corner, nosing through my backpack he's also sorta cute... and... hey! WAIT!

He's nosing my backpack to try and eat my bagels!  
GET OUT OF THERE YOU DEVIL!!!

# A GIRL AND HER (DEVIL) DINOSAUR

Terrified of what would happen if anyone discovered the T. Rex's existence, Lunella's goal is to keep him secret from her parents, teachers, classmates, the police, the Department of Dinosaur Control, super heroes and, well, really all of New York.

Problem is, he's like a giant puppy... albeit one who can destroy a taxi cab in one fell swoop. He's so curious and mischievous that Lunella nicknames him **Devil Dinosaur** — a name he comes by honestly.

Care and feeding is going to be tricky:

- His enormous appetite requires hundreds of pounds of food, which means feasting out of local dumpsters at night.
- They have to sneak into the local car wash after hours for a shower.
- He can only exercise with midnight runs through Central Park. (Normally a bad idea, but would YOU mess with him?)
- His waste is... well, let's just say it's "prolific." And no fun to clean up.

In spite of the hassle, Lunella finds herself bonding with Devil. He is unfailingly loyal to the girl who saved him from captivity and he follows her wherever she goes (even when she doesn't want him to). Sure he can drive her crazy, but still... there's something about those big yellow eyes she just can't help but love.

So she is never going to let anyone take him away.

# SEASON 1

*Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur* is an action-comedy with a heavy emphasis on comedy. We will explore the budding friendship between a young genius and her pet dinosaur. This little girl and this giant biped quickly become best friends because deep down, they have something in common: They are both outsiders.

Just as Lunella doesn't fit in at school, Devil doesn't fit in... um, anywhere. Even in a city like Marvel's New York where strangeness abounds, a 20' dinosaur STILL stands out. So in their own ways, Lunella and Devil are both trying to muddle through worlds that don't seem to understand either of them, and it's against this backdrop that our week-to-week episodes will feature ongoing themes and season-long arcs:

## **MOON GIRL & DEVIL DINOSAUR — THE CRIMEFIGHTERS**

With an arsenal of homemade gadgets and an enormous sidekick at her disposal, Moon Girl can help others in ways Lunella Lafayette never can. After all, the Lower East Side may be gentrifying, but there's still plenty of local crime (and it's not like the Avengers ever seem to bother coming below 14<sup>th</sup> Street).

Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur take on bad guys of all stripes — from small-timers knocking over the local bodega, to the monsters, aliens and super-villains from the pages of Marvel Comics.

But never forget: Moon Girl is just nine years old, so while she is always excited to do good, her youthful ambition frequently outpaces her youthful abilities — especially when it comes to the design and execution of her homemade super-gadgets. Add in Devil's lack of self-control, and failure and property damage abound.

\*\*\*

## **DEVIL GOES HOME (MAYBE)**

Over the season Lunella will wrestle with whether or not to send Devil back to his home world. Not because she wants to, but because maybe she should.

Although the original Omni-Wave Projector was destroyed, Lunella realizes that there have been plenty of alien battles around NYC over the years, so it stands to reason she can scavenge everything she needs to build the Omni-Wave Projector 2.0.

Her search will take place over several episodes, with adventures in all five boroughs. During this search, she and Devil will discover there are others who also want alien technology: Junk collectors... super-villains... even agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Many of our stories will come from our heroes squaring off against these rivals.

Eventually Lunella will build the new Omni-Wave Projector, but by the time she does she's not sure she can actually bring herself to send her new friend away. (Nor does he necessarily want her to...)

\*\*\*

### **SECRETS REVEALED**

Lunella will be stretched to the limit trying to keep anyone from finding out about Devil, but eventually it's all gonna come out. After all, there's only so long you can keep something as big and loud as a T. Rex a secret. Friends, family, classmates — everyone will learn the truth about Devil and Lunella's going to have to deal with it.

Similarly, the legend of Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur will grow from quiet rumor to front-page stories in *The Daily Bugle*. And if you think Lunella's parents are upset about the dinosaur, wait until they discover their baby girl is risking life and limb to fight crime!

\*\*\*

### **FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

We want to expand on the world we've seen in the comics. Aside from spending more time with Lunella's parents, this means introducing a best friend named **Casey Calderon** (more on her in a sec), as well as expanding Lunella's family to include her grandfather and grandmother (the latter of whom is an important role model).

Our show is about a modern black family and we won't shy away from the issues these stories raise. Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur can be seen as a metaphor for how we all feel out-of-place from time-to-time, but Lunella isn't just a metaphor. Our nine-year-old super-genius super hero is a black girl in New York and we want to explore that throughout the season.

# TONE, FORMAT AND THE MARVEL OF IT ALL

Our show takes place in a more humorous corner of the Marvel Universe than we usually see. After all, there's a GIANT RED DINOSAUR walking around, so while we won't veer into full-on parody or self-awareness, we also won't take ourselves too seriously.

So when Devil gets a cold and Lunella can't find a vet, she turns to Dr. Strange for medical expertise. Yes, Captain America is still a war hero, but while adults treat him with reverence, to the 4<sup>th</sup> graders at PS 20 he's kind of a big dork who's out of touch.

Even the villains will be a mix of scary and silly, with one of the main ones being billionaire industrialist **Justin Hammer** who was first brought to life onscreen by Sam Rockwell in *Iron Man 2*. (More on him in a sec too.)

Stories will typically be 22-minutes, with a cliffhanger over the act break. But from time to time each half hour will feature two self-contained 11-minute stories. Again, this is a comedy and we want to emphasize the humor of our world, so *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur* will feature POP-OUTS, FANTASY SEQUENCES and FLASH-TOOs! In other words won't be 22-minutes of nonstop super hero battles and mayhem.

Unless the **Hulk** shows up. Then it's nothing but mayhem.

## SHORTS

Sometimes we will tag an episode with a board-driven stand-alone short tracking Devil Dinosaur's solo adventures. These will vary in style and tone – from musical numbers to Road Runner-style romps to Devil Dinosaur's literal dreams.

Unlike our main stories, the shorts are a place to break the fourth wall, allowing us to hear Devil speak with ACTUAL WORDS instead of his usual grunts and growls.

They will be easy to segment and use as interstitials, online content, etc.

\*\*\*

More than anything, *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur* will be FUN. Lunella loves being a genius. She loves her new friend Devil. She loves her friends and family.

And she LOVES being Moon Girl! Her alter ego is another way for her to help others as she discovers her unlimited potential.

Oh, and it also lets her punch out bad guys.

That's fun too.

# **CHARACTERS**

## DEVIL DINOSAUR

Playful, energetic, fiercely loyal as well as just plain fierce, Devil Dinosaur is like every puppy you ever met...

...assuming that puppy could scale buildings, run 70 miles an hour and tear through sheet metal with his claws.

But the puppy analogy holds because Devil IS young. Which means like a puppy he is easily distracted, relentlessly curious, inadvertently destructive and — *ulp!* — nowhere near fully grown. 20' tall is only the starting point.

From the moment she rescues him, Devil becomes attached to Lunella and that attachment only grows over the season. He sees himself as her giant bodyguard, so whether they are scouring the city to find alien technology or fighting crime as Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, he's like the Chewbacca to her Han Solo, putting her safety above all else — even his own.

Like Lunella, Devil loves to scavenge New York's streets, but while she's searching for things for her lab or pieces for the new Omni-Wave Projector, he's looking for FOOD! Devil's appetite is enormous, so lucky for him he's been transported across time and space to one of the greatest eating cities in the world. From the white-tablecloth-and-fine-china restaurants on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to the pizza-by-the-slice joint around the corner, Devil becomes a connoisseur of the dumpsters of his adopted hometown. (Also like Lunella, he's particularly partial to the Everything Bagels from NY Hot.)

Like a somewhat-trained pet, Devil understands Lunella's basic commands, and over time, Lunella will develop rudimentary dinosaur communication skills (think Amy Adams in *Arrival*), learning how to interpret his ROARS and GROWLS. That said, her skills are imperfect, so she can (and often will) misinterpret what he's saying.

In fact, during her initial rescue from the Museum of Natural History, she will assume his longing gaze at a dinosaur display means that he misses his family. This is part of what drives her to send him back to his home world.

Little does she realize that he now sees HER as his family.

## CASEY CALDERON

**Casey Calderon** has been Lunella's friend ever since her wealthy real estate developer father bought the brownstone next to Lunella's building back when they were in diapers.

At first blush, Casey and Lunella might seem to be total opposites. Lunella is a super-genius who breezes through her schoolwork, while natural athlete Casey is so focused on sports, she barely gets passing marks. In fact, Casey competes in every sport, even cheerleading. (She once cheered for herself at a track meet, then went on to win the 50.)

But Casey just gets Lunella in a way no one (besides Devil) does. Like when the other kids at school dismiss Luella's homemade gadgets as weird, Casey's response is "Cool! Build me one!" (Even if she has no idea what it's for.)

The deeply curious Lunella often drags the wary Casey around New York on one exploration or another, so Casey often winds up as the Ethel to Lunella's Lucy. Lunella's enthusiasm usually gets them into trouble, and they rely on Lunella's smarts to get them out. But at least Casey gets to say "I told you so."

She ends up saying that a lot.

Their relationship deepened when Casey accidentally became the first person to find out that Lunella has been sneaking around New York to fight crime as Moon Girl!

Casey can't believe it! Her best friend is a super hero! Lunella insists that technically, she isn't a super hero — she's just someone who helps — but Casey points out that between the costume and all the gadgets she is TOTALLY a super hero! Casey wishes she could brag about it, but Lunella swears her to secrecy.

While Casey likes Devil, she sometimes dismisses him as "the big, red third wheel." Although she'd never admit it, it's because she's worried she will have to compete with him for Lunella's affections.

That's right, Casey is jealous of a dinosaur. Kids.

## JUSTIN HAMMER

Justin Hammer is the handsomest, most successful, most charming, richest, smartest best-dancing, butt-kicking, weapons-developing billionaire in New York.

Just ask Justin Hammer.

To be fair, the guy actually is a successful weapons developer and he is a billionaire. He's even a decent dancer. Yet Tony Stark gets all the good press, which drives Hammer crazy. He will do anything to beat Tony Stark.

That's why he recently broke ground on the Justin Hammer Pavilion of Science and Technology. Ostensibly it's a celebration of science, but in reality it's a celebration of himself — a temple to his ego that he's stocking full of stuff that Tony Stark doesn't have.

He's building the massive tower right in the heart of the Lower East Side, completely messing up Lunella's neighborhood. So already there is some tension. But once Hammer learns of Devil Dinosaur's existence, he becomes a threat. Tony Stark **TOTALLY** doesn't have his own dinosaur, so Hammer deploys every weapon at his disposal to catch Devil. He is especially reliant on his army of android soldiers, the **HammerBots**, which are heavily-armed with the latest tech from Hammer's R&D lab.

Another threat to Moon Girl is that Hammer secretly provides super-criminals with advanced weaponry in exchange for a cut of their business. So although Lunella doesn't know it, Justin Hammer is directly responsible for much of the crime Moon Girl is trying to stop. Add it all up and he's a serious rival.

Which is ironic, because when Hammer learns about a certain brilliant girl living on Hester Street, he wants to hire her, not realizing that she's also the super hero he wants to destroy. And until Lunella learns the truth, she's flattered to have the attention of a fellow super-genius. (Especially after she fails to get a Stark internship.)

Hammer's personal assistant (and frequent adviser) **Mrs. Gunderson** has known him his whole life — she got her start as his nanny. Given that she's the only person with the nerve to point out Hammer's flaws, it's a little surprising he's kept her on so long. Could be mommy issues. Could be the fact she's witnessed every tantrum he's ever thrown... and every crime he's ever committed. Could be all three.

As in *Iron Man 2*, Justin Hammer strikes the balance between funny and threatening. We will play him for laughs, but it's also clear that he is mad genius. His crazy obsession with Tony Stark makes him, well, crazy, and his stop-at-nothing attitude makes him a genuinely dangerous threat not just to Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, but to all of New York.

# LUNELLA'S FAMILY

## THE PARENTS

**Michelle** and **Roderick Lafayette** are hardworking middle class strivers who scrape to get by because more than anything they want to provide their girl with a happy life.

Lunella gets her strong will from her mother Michelle, who works as an HR Coordinator at Stark Industries. That means long hours, but Michelle is practical and her job is the reason the Lafayettes can afford the rising rents on Hester Street.

Michelle is protective of her daughter, even when Lunella doesn't want protecting. She is also the household disciplinarian. Like all kids and parents, they bump heads, but Michelle has no problem reminding Lunella who's the boss:

LUNELLA: Mom, you didn't knock before you came in my room!

MICHELLE: That's because it's my room, which you just happen to live in rent-free.

Michelle is also obsessed with giving her daughter a "normal" childhood. Working at Stark Industries lets her see firsthand how it can be tough for geniuses to fit in, so she is constantly over-planning Lunella's life — arranging playdates Lunella doesn't want and signing her up for after-school programs she doesn't want to do. (For the pink tutu alone, Lunella will never forgive her for ballet class.) It comes from a sweet place, but sometimes it feels like Michelle puts the "hell" in "helicopter parent."

Lunella's dad Roderick is flightier. His day job is Driving Test Examiner for the Queens DMV, but his real passion is cooking and his goal is to land the restaurant concession when the Justin Hammer Pavilion opens. He's constantly testing new dishes on his family — from creamed cannelloni to garbanzo smoothies — and in spite of how weird they sound, they taste delicious.

Roderick has a special bond with his daughter. He doesn't view her spacing out as "not paying attention," because he's a creative person too. He understands that sometimes to do anything you need think about nothing.

Lunella Louise Lafayette will always be her daddy's "Triple-L." He gets sentimental at the thought of her growing up, tearing up at anything that reminds him that she won't be 9 forever. (He once completely lost it during a tire commercial.)

\*\*\*

Michelle and Roderick deeply love each other and aren't embarrassed to show it. Even in public. Which of course totally embarrasses Lunella. Although they may approach the world and especially their daughter from different angles, they are a solid unit with a common goal: Making sure their sweet girl is happy and safe.

Which is why they are totally gonna FREAK when they discover all of her extracurricular activities.

## THE GRANDPARENTS

We expand the Lafayette family circle from the comic to include Lunella's grandparents **Mimi** and **Gramp**, Michelle's parents.

Gramp is a retired cop. He has a loose relationship with the truth, so his stories about his glory days with the NYPD always end with him saving the day... conveniently omitting the part where a super hero saved his butt.

Gramp is also 100% positive that he's the reason Lunella is a genius. He brags about Lunella (LOUDLY), basking in her reflected glory and taking credit for her brilliance. He's like the LaVar Ball to Lunella's Lonzo.

In reality, Lunella's brilliance traces to Mimi, who worked for Howard Stark back in the day (think *Hidden Figures* in the Marvel Universe). Lunella loves hearing Mimi's stories, and she is an important role model, not sugarcoating what it was like to be a black, female scientist in a predominantly white, male world.

Lunella's favorite possession in the world is the slide rule Mimi used to make the calculations for Stark's groundbreaking technology. Mimi pushes Lunella not to use a calculator because she believes there is a deeper understanding that comes from working out problems yourself: "You gotta get your hands dirty."

Lunella might be a kid who loves tech, but over time she will see the wisdom of her grandmother's words. After all, calculators can run out of power — pencils can't.

Mimi takes on the role of the calm, stable presence in the family. She steers Michelle away from her worst overprotective instincts, secretly adjusts Roderick's recipes to make them even better, and understands what it's like for Lunella to have a big brain in a small-brained world. She is the closest thing her granddaughter has to a mentor.

And she's the one to tell Gramp to pipe down when he's actin' a fool...

# MARVEL CHARACTERS

Starting with the pilot we will reference that we are living in the Marvel Universe, but our early episodes will keep cameos to a minimum so that our show focuses on our main characters. As the season continues, we will see more Marvel faces.

We want to give some of the less well-known characters their due, especially all of the great thinkers — good and evil — who will serve as natural role models (or foils) to Moon Girl:

**Shuri** – Black Panther's sister and princess of Wakanda. She is not just a powerful warrior, but a skilled scientist who has much she can teach Lunella... if Lunella isn't too stubborn to listen.

**Hank Pym** – Physicist who discovered the subatomic Pym Particle. This former S.H.I.E.L.D. agent was the original Ant-Man. We get the sense this aging super hero might be itching to get back into action. That may not be a good idea.

**Dr. Bill Foster** – A chemist who works at Stark Industries and has worked with Pym in the past. He is also the super hero **Goliath** who has the ability to grow in size. He's not too psyched to have a giant red dinosaur on his turf.

**Amadeus Cho** – Like Lunella, a child prodigy who became a super hero, in this case the **Hulk**. Although he tries to help Moon Girl, he is also condescending to her, refusing to believe anyone in the world could be smarter than him.

**The Intelligencia** – A squad of super-genius super-villains, conceived by **the Leader** with the purpose of re-assembling the Lost Library of Alexandria. He's still in the recruiting phase, with only his loyal assistant **Gargoyle** and the deranged **Egghead** committed to the team. Problem is, you get this many big brains in once place and it's hard to get agreement. They will try to recruit Moon Girl. They won't succeed.

**The Killer Folk** – Pretty much the opposite of super-genius, these primitive mouth-breathers won't appear at the same time as Devil Dinosaur (which they do in the comic), but will instead arrive in New York later in the season, during one of Lunella's failed attempts to transport Devil Dinosaur back to his own dimension.

**Tony Stark** - Lunella has long-admired the guy and would pretty much do anything she could to work for, with or around him — which drives Justin Hammer nuts. She sacrifices at least one chance at a Stark Internship, but hopefully it won't be her last...

# OTHER CHARACTERS

## PS 20 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fourth grade teacher **Ms. Dominguez** tries to be one of those “cool” educators who “relates.” But she’s young, inexperienced and clearly out of her depth with a student as smart as Lunella. Ms. D constantly tries to challenge Lunella with puzzles (that Lunella can always solve) and when Lunella finishes a test in five minutes, Ms. D sends her out to the library for “Private Study.” At first Lunella feels ignored, but she realizes this a great chance to work on “outside projects” (i.e. Moon Girl stuff).

Mrs. Dominguez doesn’t have much luck controlling class clown **Eduardo**, whose pathetic goal in life is to give each of his classmates a nickname. (It still kills him that he wasn’t the one who came up with “Moon Girl” for Lunella.)

**Bianca** is a rule-following-president-of-every-club-Tracy-Flick-like snitch who LIVES to rat on Lunella and Casey. Lunella tries to ignore Bianca. Casey actively hates her.

A meathead like **Coach Hrbek** doesn’t get Lunella at all, although he backs down to star athlete Casey whenever he tries to make her friend run extra laps.

Lunella’s least favorite class is Drama, because she hates getting up in front of everyone to do stupid “trust falls.” Casey, however, loves **Mr. Miller**, the flighty, never-quite-made-it-as-an-actor drama teacher who Casey goads into wasting time by telling stories about all the times he played a cadaver on the show *Crime & Justice*.

## THE HESTER STREET REGULARS

Like much of the Lower East Side, Hester Street is gentrifying, so as high-end chain stores and fancy condos pop up around the older buildings and mom and pop stores, we see a neighborhood in transition.

**Mr. Lee** is the 4th generation owner of Lunella’s favorite bagel store, NY Hot, and always has an Everything with a Schmear waiting for her each morning as she zips by on her roller skates. His teenage grandson **Jeffrey** helps out around the store and Casey has a full-on crush on Jeffrey... not that she’d ever admit it.

**Albert** and **Alec** are two elderly men who hang out on their stoop all day playing speed chess. Well, “play” is a stretch, as they actually spend most of their time complaining about, well, everything. FUN FACT: Neither of them has ever beaten Lunella in a game. Ever. And **Mrs. Esposito**, who heckles from her window, gleefully points this out any chance she gets.

# LOCATIONS

This is Marvel's New York, so our characters will live and play both in real world locales – Central Park, the Apollo Theater, the Empire State Building, the subway, Fresh Kills Landfill, etc. – as well as ones specific to our fictional universe, including:

## **LUNELLA'S SECRET WATER TOWER LAB**

Ramshackle and homemade, think of it as the lab Tony Stark would have if he weren't a billionaire. It's loaded with cool stuff she built out of items she's street-scavenged. Its high roof and wide berth makes it large enough for Devil to hang out while she's at school. Other than Casey and Lunella, no one else knows about it.

## **HESTER STREET/LOWER EAST SIDE**

A quintessential neighborhood in transition – chain stores pushing out mom and pops, new high rises towering over older buildings, old-timers living side-by-side with younger, richer new residents. Still, the neighborhood holds on to its character — folks hang out on their stoops and everyone keeps an eye out for each other. Which is good, because even all the yuppies and candle stores coming in haven't kept the crime out. The Lafayettes live in a five-story building at 128 Hester St.

## **PS 20**

A typical New York elementary school – small, a little rundown and crowded, but served by faithful (if overwhelmed) teachers. We will spend most of our time in **MS. DOMINGUEZ' FOURTH GRADE CLASSROOM**, although the school also features a gym, music room and theater. Like many schools in the city, the play space is on the roof.

## **HAMMER TOWER/HAMMER'S OFFICE**

Hammer's office is located atop a gaudy midtown skyscraper which serves as a monument to his ego. It's filled with enough magazine covers and self-portraits that even Donald Trump would say it's over the top.

## **STARK INDUSTRIES**

Michelle has a cubicle in the HR department where she does first-round interviews for potential Stark hires. For such a cool building, the HR department is decidedly low-tech. It looks like something out of *The Office*. Still, Lunella loves coming to visit on Take Your Daughter to Work Day... and using her mom's ID badge to sneak around and see what Stark has cooking.

## **DEPARTMENT OF DINOSAUR CONTROL**

This secret division of the NYPD is located in the basement of the American Museum of Natural History. Few know of its existence, but this well-stocked-if-dusty lab is a dream workplace for any paleontologist. Especially since there is now an actual dinosaur walking the streets of New York!

# STORIES

## I'M OFF

It's Michelle's annual "I'm Off Day" – the one day a year she takes a well-earned day of rest and relaxation. Lunella is eager to come up with ways for her mom to chill out, but quickly finds herself in a competition with her father, who is excited to impress his hard-working wife. It's Super-Chef versus Super-Inventor in a contest that ends with Lunella's homemade satellite radio accidentally broadcasting a signal to outer space. Now she's lured an alien horde to New York.... and even worse they've abducted her parents! It's Moon Girl and Devil to the rescue!

## ARMS & HAMMER

Justin Hammer launches a *Shark Tank*-style competition to find new designers to work for him. Lunella is thrilled she's among the winners... until she discovers that the giant robot mech she designed to build low-income housing is instead being used to capture Devil Dinosaur! Now she must somehow sabotage her own project and save her best friend without giving away her Moon Girl identity.

## MOON GIRL AND DEVIL DINOSAUR AND... CASEY?!

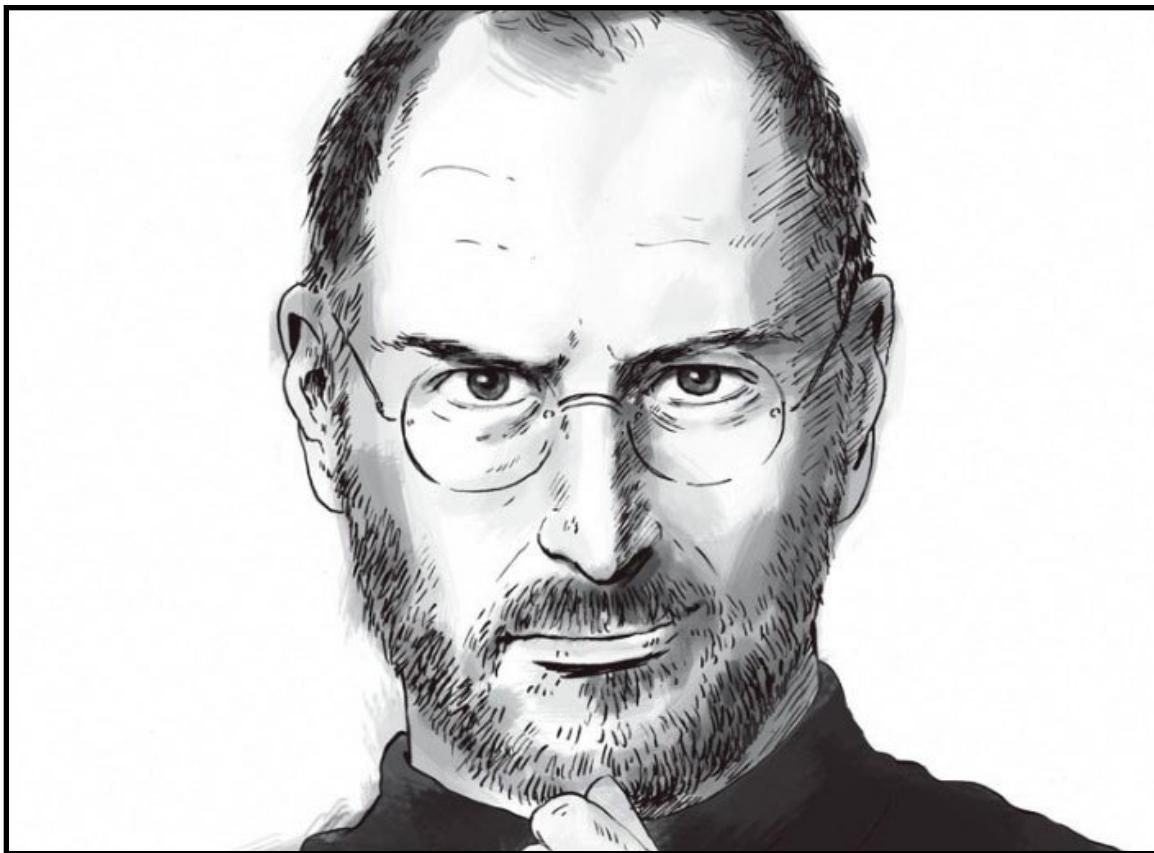
Convinced that her athletic skills would be an asset to Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, Casey convinces Lunella to bring her along on a mission to stop a ring of neighborhood car thieves. Casey isn't quite as helpful as she thinks, but Lunella doesn't want to hurt her friend's feelings, so she uses her Moon Girl tech to make Casey think she's doing a good job. Now overconfident, Casey adopts her "Spitfire" persona to do some solo super-heroing... only to find herself in serious trouble with a group of Hammerbots.

## DEVIL GIRL AND MOON DINOSAUR

After successfully creating a neurotransmitter that allows her to communicate telepathically with Casey, Lunella decides to test her "Brain Sharing" device on Devil. But a lab accident instead causes the device to short out. Now Lunella is randomly and unpredictably switching brains with Devil, with her rampages coming at the worst (and most embarrassing) possible times. With a big class presentation coming up, Lunella needs to get her brain back full time.

## ALL'S FAIR IN SCIENCE FAIR

When Lunella offers to help Casey with her science fair project by essentially doing it for her, an annoyed Casey decides to take one of Lunella's dangerous works-in-progress from her lab... accidentally setting off a chain reaction in school that only Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur can stop.



## ONE MORE THING...

There's a bunch of people around New York who have alien DNA.

If that DNA interacts with a random alien cloud, they will transform.

Into what? Anything. They might gain super powers or turn into a deformed monster. The possibilities are endless. And entirely unpredictable.

Once transformed, they are classified as a new species: "The Inhumans."

Lunella has that DNA.

But she doesn't know it.

Yet.